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From: Morning Consult
Sent: Sun 1/15/2017 7:00:42 PM
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: Week in Review & What's Ahead

By Jack Fitzpatrick

Morning Consult Energy will be off Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Publication of the morning brief and afternoon news ticker will resume on Jan. 17.

Week in Review

Tillerson on climate change, foreign policy

- Former ExxonMobil Corp. Chief Executive Rex Tillerson, Trump's pick for secretary of state, hedged when asked about climate change during his confirmation hearing. He said greenhouse gas emissions have contributed, while adding that scientists' "ability to predict that effect is very limited." When asked about the Paris climate agreement, he said it's "important that the U.S. maintain a seat at the table."
- Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) called Tillerson's answers on foreign policy "discouraging," and hasn't said whether he'll support his nomination. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) was also noncommittal, while Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said Tillerson's confirmation looks "salvageable."
- ExxonMobil circumvented U.S. sanctions against Iran, Syria and Sudan while Tillerson was CEO by doing business in those countries through a European subsidiary.

ExxonMobil and subpoena on climate change

- A judge ordered ExxonMobil to comply with Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey's request for communications documents in an investigation into how much the company knew about the dangers of climate change.

Volkswagen reaches settlement; EPA accuses Fiat Chrysler of emissions-cheating

- Six Volkswagen employees were indicted over its emissions-cheating

scandal, and the company agreed to pay \$4.3 billion in a settlement that includes criminal charges.

- The Environmental Protection Agency accused Fiat Chrysler of engaging in a similar ploy to undermine energy deals.

OPEC's effectiveness

- Libya has more than tripled its oil production in the past six months, threatening the effectiveness of the OPEC deal to cut production. Libya is an OPEC member but was not required to cut output as part of the deal.
- Saudi Arabia has cut oil output by 10 million barrels per day, below the level of the OPEC agreement. Saudi energy minister said the country would consider a six-month extension of the deal.

BLM suggests raising coal royalties

- The Bureau of Land Management released a report suggesting a wide range of changes to its stance on mining on public lands, including an increase in the royalty rate.

What's Ahead

- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is scheduled to hold a confirmation hearing on Tuesday for Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), Trump's pick to lead the Department of Interior.
- On Wednesday, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will hold a confirmation hearing for Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, who's been tapped to be the next Environmental Protection Agency administrator. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) told reporters that while climate change will be a focus, issues, such as mercury pollution, could garner more bipartisan support for Pruitt.
- The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is scheduled on Thursday to hold a confirmation hearing for former Texas Gov. Rick Perry's (R), Trump's choice to lead the Department of Energy.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

Monday

Tuesday

Release of IEA coal market

scheduled

2 p.m.

Confirmation hearing for Zinke

the Interior Dept.

2:15

p.m.

Wednesday

Confirmation hearing for Pruitt

the EPA

10

a.m.

CSIS discussion on African

10

a.m.

Thursday

Confirmation hearing for Perry

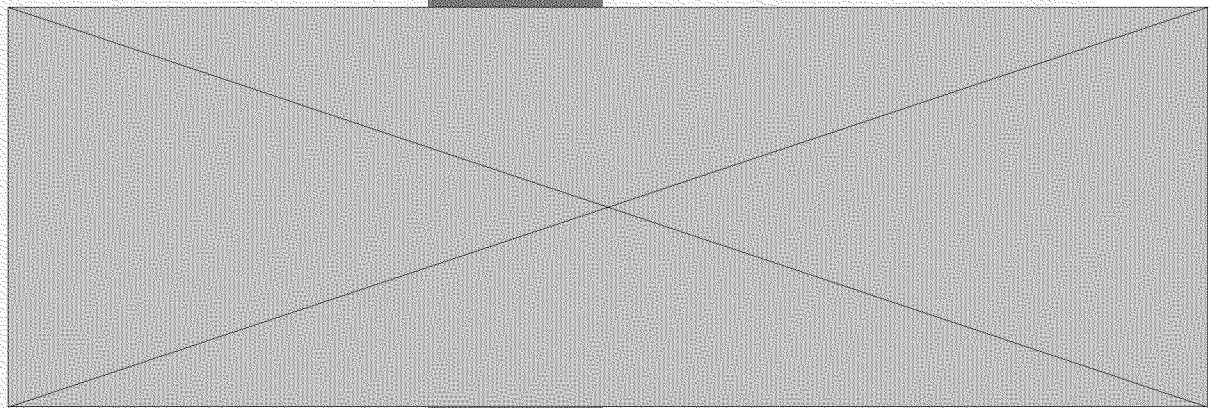
the Energy Dept.

10

a.m.

Friday

Inauguration Day



Morning Consult Energy Top Reads

- 1) ExxonMobil and Iran did business under secretary of State nominee Tillerson
Oren Dorell, USA Today
- 2) Rex Tillerson grilled on ExxonMobil conflicts, Russia sanctions, climate change at confirmation
Rebecca Shabad, CBS News
- 3) Senators wrestle with whether to back Tillerson
Timothy Cama and Jordain Carney, The Hill

- 4) Dem: EPA pick should answer questions before hearing
Timothy Cama, The Hill
- 5) Obama denies permits for seafloor leasing to search for oil in the Atlantic
Darryl Fears, The Washington Post
- 6) Bill would penalize utilities for wasted electricity for Wyoming customers
Heather Richards, Casper Star-Tribune
- 7) McConnell outlines environmental priorities for Trump action
Matthew Daly, The Associated Press
- 8) America's first 'clean coal' plant is operational - and another is on the way
Chris Mooney, The Washington Post
- 9) Energy executives, secretaries use money to back Pruitt
Alex Guillén and Esther Whieldon, The Washington Post
- 10) 600 companies plead with Trump to hold Paris agreement
Anna Giaritelli, Washington Examiner

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